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Professor Hershey's closing chapter deals with "The Treaty of Portsmouth," the text of which is given in full. This treaty the Professor says is interesting and important for three reasons: In the first place, because of the leading part played by President Roosevelt in inaugurating and influencing the conduct of the negotiations; secondly, because of the controversy with regard to the question of indemnity; and, thirdly, because, taken in connection with the Anglo-Japanese offensive and defensive alliance signed on August 12, 1905, it settled, for a time at least, the status of the combatants (and incidentally, too, that of other leading nations of Europe and America) in the Far East.

Instead of the President's mediation being open to criticism as intrusive or unwarranted, it was tendered, as Professor Hershey shows, in accordance with article 3 of the first convention of The Hague Conference of 1899, to which Russia, Japan, and the United States were parties, and which provided that the right to offer good offices or mediation belongs to powers who are strangers to the dispute, even during the course of hostilities; and that the exercise of this right shall never be considered by one or the other parties to the contest as an unfriendly act.

If the First Hague Conference did not prevent that colossal struggle, it helped, by authorizing and inviting the good offices of neutral powers, to bring it to an earlier and happier close.

CRAMMOND KENNEDY.

La Proprietà Privata Nelle Guerre Marittime Secondo Il Diritto Internazionale Pubblico, by Tullio Giordana. Turin and Rome. Società Tipografico-Editrice Nazionale. Five lire.

In view of the attention being paid at the present time in periodicals specializing the study of international law to the various questions of "maritime" and "prize" law, the present publication by the editor of *La Tribuna*, of Rome, has a special value. The plan of the work is indicated by the following extract which we translate from the preface:

It is not the doctrines or the writings of men which cause the world to move on, but rather the collective forces of the masses that not infrequently find interpreters among the publicists. If some thinker is credited with having had a measure of influence in his day, like Voltaire or Beccaria, it is because he knew how to express a reform which had already been silently accomplished in the conscience of the people. He did not originate, but merely demonstrated civilization. Progress would have been accomplished just the same without a day's delay by the law of fate. Like the physicist who does not concern himself as

to how natural laws should operate, but contents himself with stating them as he finds them and using them as they are, we will endeavor to set forth public international law in so far as it concerns private property in maritime war according to its actual existence which it derives from the general recognition which is received at the hands of nations or from the insistence of its use. While specially bearing in mind the practical utility of the book we are submitting, we will, therefore, prefer to gather recent cases and the decrees bearing thereon to furnish in an eventuality (to which may the fortunes of the Fatherland avert) an immediate criterion with the aid of precedents for the officers of the navy, for whose special benefit this work has been prepared.

The fundamental idea of the work being thus traced, the writer discusses successively, in the light of recent events, the utterances of the authors relative to the question of the inviolability of private property in maritime warfare, following with a consideration of reprisals, retorsion, embargo, and pacific blockade, incidents of the opening of hostilities, bombardment, exercise of the right of seizure, the effect of the declaration of war upon neutrals, what constitutes contraband of war, the law of blockade, right of visit, the preliminary steps necessary in connection with legal seizure, the constitution of courts of prize, closing with a copy of the imperial Russian decree determining contraband of war in the recent Russo-Japanese conflict and the declarations of the Japanese Government with relation to the same matter.

In view of recent discussions in this *Journal*, it is worthy of note that the doctrine of the *Springbok* case relative to continuity of voyages is accepted without question.

The work will prove of value to those studying the particular subjects indicated by this brief review.

JACKSON H. RALSTON.

Commerce in War. By L. A. Atherley-Jones, K. C., M. P., assisted by Hugh H. L. Bellot, D. C. L. Methuen & Co., London. 1907.

International law has shown such rapid growth during the last half century that it is becoming increasingly difficult to treat it as a whole in any single book, however voluminous. The authors of this treatise, in confining themselves to the consideration of but one of the fields of international concern, have made it possible to set forth with some fullness the processes by which the law affecting that has been evolved, whether these are found in public transactions or in the use made of private opinion, expressed by jurists of repute. Mr. Atherley-Jones is a